3509. [*Transferred to the 31st August*, 1988]

Forest fires

3510. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the loss of forest wealth and lives due to forest fires in last three years;

(b) what are the methods used for preventing and/or extinguishing forest fires in India;

(c) what are the methods employed by other environment conscious countries for prevention and extinguishing of forest fires; and

(d) whether Government propose to adopt modern methods for forest fire fighting; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Information regarding the loss of forest wealth and lives due to Forest fires in the last three years is being collected and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

(b) Methods used for preventing and/or extinguishing forest fires in India include clearance and maintenance of fire lines, controlled burning along roads and paths, seeking cooperation of the people through publicity, and extinguishing forest fires with the help of counter fires and implements including hand tools.

(c) Methods employed by othere environment conscious countries for the prevention and extinguishing of forest fires include use of hand tools, mechanised equipment water Handling equipment and air operations.

(d) Yes Sir. A Central Sector pilot project has been launched with UNDP assistance in the States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh to devise, test and demonstrate principles and techniques of prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires. Experience gained from the project will be made available to all States & Union Territories for guidance and use.

Summary assessment scheme

3511. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that summary assessment scheme has failed in achieving its objective;

(b) if so, what remedial steps are being taken to improve the situation;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative; whether there has been an increase in tax mobilisation through this scheme; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase in tax collections from year to year. The figures of total tax collected during financial years 1983-84 to 1987-88 are as under:—

Financial year	Tax collections (in crores of rupees)
1983-84	4191.87
1984-85	4483.66
1985-86	5374.30
1986-87	6038.01
1987-88	6644.00 (provisional figures

Redressal of the hardship of handloom weavers

3512. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of yarn for handloom weavers has gone up by 28 per cent during the last three years;